



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

AUG 31 2005

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert
235 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-1314

Re: Declaration of a Public Health Emergency

Dear Representative Hastert:

I am writing to notify you that, as a consequence of Hurricane Katrina in the States of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, and Mississippi, on August 31, I determined that a public health emergency exists and has existed since August 24, 2005 in the State of Florida and since August 29, 2005 in the States of Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi, pursuant to the authority vested in me under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act, 42 U.S.C. § 247d.

Sincerely,

Michael O. Leavitt

Attachment